

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2011

Present: Barbara Tallone, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice Chair; Barbara Willson, Secretary; Ann Corcoran, Treasurer; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Steve Baran; Pat Ellis; Jim Papachristos; Sally Thompson; Paul Turner; Norma Wu, Liaison Friends of the COA.

Absent: Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen; Sgt. Ray Grey, Liaison Police Department.

Call To Order: Barbara Tallone

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:45 on December 12, 2011 at the Senior Center.

Items Distributed at meeting or available electronically:

Agenda for COA meeting

Minutes of the COA Board meeting of November 17, 2011

Director's Report

Annual Report and Fiscal Service Report for Acton of Minuteman Senior Services

Review of the Minutes of November 17, 2011

The minutes of the November 17 meeting were read aloud and accepted unanimously.

Director Report: Sharon Mercurio

(distributed)

A new podiatrist has requested more time to reach the needs of the seniors seeking care, but space limits the possibility. Currently these treatments are provided in the lunch room which is undesirable. A woman was hit by a car in the parking lot when people were leaving from one class and others arriving for another class. She suffered a fractured pelvis. The parking lot was chaotic as the inadequate space assures.

Senior Center Building Committee Report: Sharon Mercurio

Members will report to the Board of Selectmen on January 9, 2012. A request for formation of a subcommittee composed of Acton 2020 members and SCBC members will be made. The committee suggests \$200,000 be requested at Town Meeting for development of design and property assessment.

The January newsletter will include the survey regarding a new center. Charlie Aaronson noted that comments from the audience at the BOS meeting at which Acton 2020 reported were negative about the need for a new Senior Center.

Christmas Luncheon: Ann Corcoran

All plans are made for the holiday luncheon tomorrow. Sixty seniors are expected. Santa will attend to distribute cheer and chocolates. All cooks must wear hats in the kitchen. Leftovers will remain in the kitchen for Joy's use.

Liaison Reports:

Friends of COA: Norma Wu

The annual appeal letters have just been mailed. This effort equals about 5/6 of the total budget of about \$16000/year. The fairs bring in about \$2500.

Minuteman Senior Services: Charlie Aaronson

(distributed)

Telephone calls doubled in 2011. The main office is moving in the spring due to loss of space. The new location will be within the 16 towns Minuteman services area.

New Business:**Senior Legislative Issues: Pat Ellis**

The Bill addressing tax relief for seniors remains in committee on Beacon Hill and will not be discussed until January.

Sharon noted that those qualifying for fuel assistance are now receiving \$175 monthly instead of \$300.

Health Insurance for Retired Town Employees: Barbara Willson

The issue of reducing the percentage of health insurance for Acton town employees is under discussion by the Board of Selectmen. It is likely that retired employees will also be affected. Sharon noted that retirees are represented on the committee reviewing Chapter 69.

Health and the Environment: Sally Thompson

Sally has met with individuals from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs to discuss senior health and the environment. One idea mentioned was to insert an informational article in all COA newsletters.

Adjournment-Next Meeting: Barbara Tallone

The meeting adjourned at 4:55p.m. The next meeting will be Monday January 9, 2012 at 3:45 P.M. at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Willson, Secretary